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To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):
MINORU TAKEBE and MASAKAZU MORIMOTO

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies)

Name: NICHIMO CO., LTD.

Internal Address: _____

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:

 Assignment Merger Security Agreement Change of Name Other _____Execution Date: April 22, 1999Street Address: 6-2, Otemachi 2-chome,Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004, Japan

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? Yes No

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: _____

A. Patent Application No.(s)

09/284,935

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: KODA & ANDROLIA

Internal Address: _____

Street Address: 10100 Santa Monica Blvd.,Suite 234005/07/1999 Date: 05/07/1999 State: CA ZIP: 9006702 FC:5A1 Amount: 40.006. Total number of applications and patents involved: 17. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41).....\$ 40.00 Enclosed Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number:

11-1445

(Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

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9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

William L. Androlia

Reg. No. 27,177



Name of Person Signing

Signature

05/03/1999

2

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: 1

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information:

Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Box Assignments

Washington, D.C. 20231

Assignment

2.11A 28.28 PCT

(1) MINORU TAKEBE
 (2) MASAKAZU MORIMOTO
 (3) _____ and
 (4) _____

(1-4) Insert Name(s) of Inventor(s)

In consideration of the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable considerations paid to each of the undersigned, the undersigned agree(s) to assign and hereby does assign, transfer and set over to

(5) NICHIMO CO., LTD.
 (6) of 6-2, Otemachi 2-chome
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004, Japan

(hereinafter designated as the Assignee) the entire right, title and interest for the United States, its territories, dependencies and possessions, in the invention known as

(7) BENEFICIAL MICROORGANISM PROPAGATION-PROMOTING
MATERIAL AND A PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE SAME
 for which the undersigned has (have) executed an application for patent in the United States of America

(8) on April 22, 1999

(8) Insert Date of Signing of Application

1) The undersigned agree(s) to execute all papers necessary in connection with the application and any continuing or divisional applications thereof and also to execute separate assignments in connection with such applications as the Assignee may deem necessary or expedient.

2) The undersigned agree(s) to execute all papers necessary in connection with any interference which may be declared concerning this application or continuation or division thereof and to cooperate with the Assignee in every way possible in obtaining evidence and going forward with such interference.

3) The undersigned agree(s) to execute all papers and documents and perform any act which may be necessary in connection with claims or provisions of the International Convention for Protection of Industrial Property or similar agreements.

4) The undersigned agree(s) to perform all affirmative acts which may be necessary to obtain a grant of a valid United States patent to the Assignee.

5) The undersigned hereby authorize(s) and request(s) the Commissioner of Patents to issue any and all Letters Patents of the United States resulting from said application or any division or divisions or continuing applications thereof to the said Assignee, as Assignee of the entire interest, and hereby covenants that he has (they have) full right to convey the entire interest herein assigned, and that he has (they have) not executed and will not execute, any agreement in conflict herewith.

6) The undersigned hereby grant(s) WILLIAM L. ANDROLIA, Reg. No. 27,177 and H. HENRY KODA, Reg. No. 27,729, the power to insert on this assignment any further identification which may be necessary or desirable in order to comply with the rules of the United States Patent Office for recordation of this document.

Date 04/22/1999 Signature of Inventor M. Takebe (SEAL)
 Date 04/22/1999 Signature of Inventor M. Morimoto (SEAL)
 Date _____ Signature of Inventor _____ (SEAL)
 Date _____ Signature of Inventor _____ (SEAL)

This assignment should preferably be signed before: (a) a Notary Public if within the U.S.A. (b) a U.S. Consul if outside the U.S.A. If neither, then it should be signed before at least two witnesses who also sign here:

Date _____ Witness _____
 Date _____ Witness _____

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

PATENT (U.S.A.)
KODA & ANDROLIA
ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.

2.11A 2828 PCT

As a below named inventor, I declare that :

My residence, post office address and citizenship are stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled BENEFICIAL MICROORGANISM

PROPAGATION-PROMOTING MATERIAL AND A PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked: SAME

was filed on 04/21/1999 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number 09/284,935

and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or Inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the appropriate line, any foreign application for patent or Inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING			PRIORITY CLAIMED
		Month	Day	Year	
Japan	225296/1997	08	21	1997	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO _____ YES _____ NO _____ YES _____ NO _____ YES _____ NO _____

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS - PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED
PCT/JP98/03719	08/21/1998	Pending

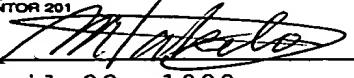
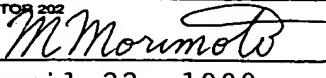
POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

WILLIAM L. ANDROLIA, REG. NO. 27,177; H. HENRY KODA, Reg. No. 27,729; ALEX CHARTOVE, Reg. No. 31,942.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:				DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:	
KODA & ANDROLIA 10100 SANTA MONICA BLVD., SUITE 2340 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067				KODA & ANDROLIA (310) 277-1391	

201	Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	Residence CITY	STATE or COUNTRY
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202	Post Office Address	6-2, Otemachi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004, Japan				CITIZENSHIP
	Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	Residence CITY	STATE or COUNTRY
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	Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	Residence CITY	STATE or COUNTRY
205	Post Office Address					CITIZENSHIP

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202
	
DATE April 22, 1999	DATE April 22, 1999
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204
DATE	DATE

Additional inventors are named on separate Declarations attached hereto.

FORM DPA PAT (REV 07/90)